



US 20020026483A1

(19) **United States**(12) **Patent Application Publication**  
Isaacs et al.(10) **Pub. No.: US 2002/0026483 A1**(43) **Pub. Date: Feb. 28, 2002**(54) **SYSTEM, METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR  
COMMUNICATING VIA INSTANT  
MESSAGING**Non-provisional of provisional application No.  
60/264,421, filed on Jan. 26, 2001. Non-provisional  
of provisional application No. 60/184,180, filed on  
Feb. 22, 2000.(76) **Inventors: Ellen Isaacs, Belmont, CA (US); Dipti  
Ranganathan, Dallas, TX (US); Alan  
Walendowski, Belmont, CA (US)****Publication Classification**(51) **Int. Cl.<sup>7</sup> ..... G06F 15/16; G09G 5/00**  
(52) **U.S. Cl. .... 709/206; 345/751; 345/864**

Correspondence Address:

Samuel H. Dworetsky

AT&amp;T CORP.

P.O. Box 4110

Middletown, NJ 07748-4110 (US)

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A system, method and apparatus for facilitating communication among a number of distributed clients in a distributed network is disclosed. A user, such as through a personal digital assistant device, may select one or more instant messages for transmission to one or more other users in the network. The instant messages may be sound instant message and/or text instant messages. During messaging, message status indicators provide users with the status of their respective messages. In one embodiment, the messages may be deemed to be either pending or received as distinguished by a pending status indicator and a received status indicator.

(21) **Appl. No.: 09/823,167**(22) **Filed: Mar. 30, 2001****Related U.S. Application Data**(63) **Continuation-in-part of application No. 09/609,893,  
filed on Jul. 5, 2000. Non-provisional of provisional  
application No. 60/260,035, filed on Jan. 5, 2001.**